IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Stephen J. Brown	Attorney Docket No. HERO-1-1099
Serial No.: 09/653,664	Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: September 1, 2000	Examiner:
Title: METHOD FOR CONDUCTING AN ON-LINE BIDDING SESSION WITH BID POOLING	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents:
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Delete Claims 1-11.

Please add the following the new claims:

12.   A method for conducting an on-line bidding session, the method being performed at an auction computer with a processor that is coupled to a plurality of remote computers across a computer network; the method comprising:

storing previously registered bidding groups in a database coupled to the processor, wherein each of the registered bidding groups comprise a list of associated bidders;

receiving bids for a property entered by bidders on the plurality of remote computers and sending the received bids to the processor;

determining at the processor each bidding group's total bid by accumulating the bids received from bidders included in the bidding group's list of associated bidders; and

storing the determined total bid in the database.

13.   The method of Claim 12, further comprising creating registration records in the database, wherein each registration record corresponds to a bidder account created by